

where she met and married her husband George R. Geissler on October 7, 1942.

Kitty joined the LAOH, Division 9 in Portchester, and transferred to the Tarrytown Division in 1951 when she and her family moved. The division was renamed The Kitty Geissler Division 11 following her tenure, a testament to her work there. Kitty served at every level of leadership, including ten consecutive terms as President. She held several offices on the County level, and has been a delegate to many of the New York State and National Conventions.

In addition, Kitty has been a delegate to the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, while also being an active member of the American Irish Association of Westchester, the Catholic Daughters of America, The Ladies of Charity, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Tarrytown Senior Citizens.

In 1979 Kitty was honored by the American Irish Association and became the First A.I.A. Irish Woman of the Year. In 1986, Kitty was Aide to Grand Marshall Patrick Grimes in the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade to Grand Marshall Bill Burke in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Kitty was the first Grand Marshall of the Sleepy Hollow St. Patrick's Day Parade, served again in honor of her 100th birthday. Kitty's dedication was recognized by the New York State LAOH after she was awarded the Mother Teresa Medal.

Kitty's real love though is family. She is the proud Grandmother of eight and great Grandmother of nine. Kitty's life is a true inspiration, and it is an honor to celebrate her incredible 104th birthday in Congress. I am honored to represent such a special constituent, and I am thankful for all she has done in the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF HENRY SHILEY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor my constituent of Middletown, Virginia, Volunteer Fire Chief Henry Shiley, who recently retired from the Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company after 53 years of dedicated service, and also to congratulate him on receiving the status of Fire Chief Emeritus, awarded to retired fire chiefs of extraordinary distinction.

Middletown, Virginia, located in the northern Shenandoah Valley, is home to Lord Fairfax Community College and also the site of the

Battle of Cedar Creek during the Civil War. However despite the college and strong history, Middletown would not be the close-knit, caring community that it is without the Middletown Volunteer Fire Station and its long-time leader, Chief Shiley.

For 53 years, Chief Henry Shiley dedicated his life to his community without any compensation, regularly putting himself and his fellow volunteer first responders at risk as they attempted to aid people—neighbors and strangers alike—during some of the most desperate moments of their lives.

Over the course of his career, Chief Shiley has watched Company 12 progress and grow immensely. What was once a small, volunteer unit has morphed into a group of volunteer professionals that have gone through extensive training, including becoming emergency medical services (EMS) certified.

The members of Company 12 are proud of their reputation of excellence and professionalism and attribute it largely to their leader, Chief Shiley. In fact the group unanimously voted to grant Chief Shiley the status of Fire Chief Emeritus—a true testament to his extraordinary knowledge, steady leadership, kindness, and most importantly, sense of humor.

On behalf of Virginia's 10th District, I thank Chief Shiley for his half-century of service to Middletown and the Shenandoah Valley. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Volunteer Fire Chief Henry Shiley for his years of selfless service and heroism and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEOMA LOVEGROVE

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a creative visionary in Florida's 19th district—Leoma Lovegrove. As an excerpt from the Fort Myers News-Press says, "Walking into Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens is like walking into a rainbow full of eye-popping neon pinks, oranges, purples, greens and blues . . . She applies her paintbrush to everything from cats to hearts to The Beatles."

Leoma Lovegrove is an impressionist-expressionist painter known for her vivid paintings and colorful imagery. Leoma first started her art career making pottery, belt buckles and even decorated cow skulls. Then, a little over 20 years ago, she made her way to Matlacha—a small island community that became her home and her headquarters. Her

artwork is represented in numerous galleries all over the world, including England and France. In fact, Leoma was the first American to paint on the replica of Claude Monet's floating studio in Giverny, France and the first American painter to have an exhibition in the famous Pierre Bonnard home in Vernon, France.

I applaud Leoma and her art studio, Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens, which has brought thousands of visitors to Matlacha and all of Southwest Florida. Leoma is inspired to paint with endless imagination, and her contribution to the arts, culture and economy of Southwest Florida deserves our recognition. She has inspired artists in us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIN HUGHES

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor my constituent and Rock Ridge High School's very own, Erin Hughes, for her impressive academic achievements and volunteer work.

Over the last 3 years, Erin has volunteered over 100 hours between Rosa Lee Carter Elementary School and Legacy Elementary School through both Educators Rising and the National Honor Society. As a mentor to these young students, she teaches them basic studying skills, helps them prepare for exams, and works with them to strengthen their reading and writing abilities.

Recently, Erin received the Virginia State Conference Educators Rising award for Lesson Planning: Delivery of the Arts. This is a true testament to the interest Erin has taken for education at a young age. In addition to this achievement, Erin has been a member of the National Honor Society throughout high school, which requires maintaining a very competitive grade point average. In college, Erin hopes to study elementary education in the hopes of acquiring a teaching job at an elementary school in Loudoun County.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students and communities. The work Erin has done, and continues to do at Rosa Lee Carter Elementary School and Legacy Elementary School, will inspire and shape the lives of countless young men and women for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Erin for her achievements and dedication to education. The interest she has taken at a young age is impressive, and I wish her all of the best in her future endeavors.